

# South Winds Sailing Club

ON LAKE ALLATOONA

*since 1981*

## FROM THE KOHLER:

After getting spoiled by the Spring like temperatures for the last two weeks, (or ‘global warming’, whatever the case may be...) old man winter returned with a fury to our race weekend with freezing temps the night before – yes the cockpits were covered in ice - and a continuously howling wind, around 20 mph gusting to 30. Its amazing how much wind chime music and whistle-rigging was generated by the boats in the marina. Four seasoned or courageous crews showed up for the skippers meeting, J.J Clausen with friend, Eric Johns with friend, Steve Gully and yours truly with Tyler Jackson as crew – everybody felt the warming rays of the sun near the bath house and the desire to race. The race committee was “M.I.A.” so we improvised a starting line near the super dock and a halfway point up the lake past the S-curves called the “Three Sisters”\*



Start was at 12:00 noon and as soon as we got out of the marina and tried to hoist sails things were getting interesting, somewhat skewed towards the wild side. Everybody got off to a great start and shortly there after the battles began: Wind and waves against each boat, crews against boats and wind and waves – you would be surprised how much a life and personality of their own the boats develop in these kind of conditions. J.J Clausen was battling Eric in the Cal 22 and I had my target set on Steve Gully’s stern – okay not HIS, the BOAT’S. It was hard fought sailing with reefed canvas, storm jibs only or the furler merely a foot or two unfolded to keep the devils in check. There was tacking in close quarters sails flogging and sounding like small cannons. It was a white knuckle affair with rails in the water more than once, everybody wore life jackets and practiced the sailors “death-grip onto whatever kept you in the boat. The gusts were horrendous – which made them easy to spot – no subtleties there. The cabin contents got rearranged according to the principle that everything has to come down eventually. Beating into the wind for most of the first half required the strength of a couple of oxen (yeah, that’s me and another one...) to just pull the sheets tight enough after each tack. The sailing gloves started to wear out pre-mature. Despite the fresh breeze, sweat started to form on my forehead when we tried to navigate the narrows of the S-curves with gusts coming from all directions. Amazingly the fleet made it through this ordeal all right and still pretty close together. The return trip from about the entrance to the Red Top Mountain restaurant was started first by Steve in his Hunter, followed by myself, then Eric, then J.J. Everybody was more than busy just to keep their boats flat in the water. Back through the S-curves was a little easier this time and on the long stretch back towards the Super dock – our finish line- the boats really got going with more canvas put up then common sense would have allowed. We were flying either wing on wing or on a broad reach down the channel almost surfing down the chops. Steve clearly finish first on his speedster, but just when I was passing the reef markers outside AYC, J.J and Eric deployed some secret weapon and were shooting past me like I was sitting still. I tried to make adjustments to the canvas, tugging here and there, sweating – fighting the elements and looking in awe at the two boats finishing before me.

That's when Debbie woke me up and said something like: your sweating like a pig and if you can't keep pulling on the bed sheets or thrashing your arms around you got to sleep on the couch.... What?? I am dreaming – what a nightmare, coming in fourth.....

This could have happened – no doubt- if we had had a race. The truth of the matter is that we wised up or chickened out – that depends on your perspective

The true story of BEER 2007 is before the \* in the text above and from here on out – or so it seems.

After meeting at the bath house and indeed readying ourselves for a race, I had the idea of walking to the point and down near the super dock. When I crossed the hill, a totally different picture emerged than what we were feeling at the bath house. The summary: The waves were washing over parts of the walkway to the dock or splashing against it from below. The howling of the wind was unreal with huge (covering half the lake) size gusts barreling down the lake. I went back and suggested that everybody take the same tour. After much jaw dropping and eye opening it was an easy conclusion to cancel the race – to save the equipment and nerves at least. Since we all had provisioned for a long distance race we instead arranged for an impromptu raft up across the lake in the small cove known as the 'skeet shooting alley'. Crossing the lake under power and otherwise bare poles, we still listed 15 degree in the gusts, taking on spray over the bow with each dip. Quite a ride! Brian Mc Brayer joint our small flotilla and we all got lessons in setting an anchor – we practiced several times to stay in one place with four boats tied up to me and two small Danforths on muddy bottom- thank goodness the shore banks were steep and the cove narrow. – we never drifted far... We enjoyed the sunny afternoon, the food and my cockpit shelter (Thanks Steve..). Eric had to leave the party early and was replaced by the arrival of the 'Grey Ghost'. We swapped more stories and thinking that the winds had 'clearly' subsided, we broke off around 3 p.m. and stuck our noses into the bay. It was still brisk, but sailing was possible under either reefed main or Jib alone. The boats behaved very nicely actually and we enjoyed at least an hour or so of good sailing before dreaming up the fictional race and returning the St Patrick's Day event – which was moved from the party-point to the shelter of the marina near the bath house.

This is my story and I am sticking to it...

Not always dreaming,  
Yours truly,  
Andy Kohler

# SWSC MARCH 2007 MINUETS...



Thursday, March 8, 2007  
 Provinos Italian Restaurant

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 by commodore Gulley. There were 22 people present.

Reading of last month's minutes was waived after motion was made and seconded.

Commodore: Steve Gulley

- March is a better month! Clean up your boats and get ready for the summer!!!
- The web site looks good! Please send in your articles and pictures to Schuster.

Vice Commodore: Jane Randall

- Not present.

Fleet Captain: Dan

- Ladies race Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup>. There was 1 boat Shannon with Gary H crewing.
- B fleet has had no one racing. B Fleet needs to come out!
- A race permit has been purchased from the core.
- BEER will be March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ladies race will be March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Poker race is coming up May 19<sup>th</sup>. Let Dan know if you are interested so he can plan. Think about spending the night on the boat Friday night.

Social: Shannon

- First picnic of the year will be March 17<sup>th</sup>. At the point.
- Next picnic will be Memorial Weekend. Details will follow
- The 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic and race has been changed to June 30<sup>th</sup>.
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Purser: Candace

- No purser report. We need to get the total expense from Commodores Ball

# SWSC MARCH 2007 MINUETS...

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## Old Business:

- Bulletin board has been set up. Where is the box for the newsletters?
- Burgees!!!(bad word) Gold letters on a blue background, 2sided, set-up fee of \$54-\$50.00. Motion was made by Larry to go ahead with the one time set-up fee. Motion was seconded.
- Storage locker: a vote was taken and approved, to have storage boxes installed on Richard's Pontoon boat.  
A one time cost of approx. \$300.00 for materials.
- Thank you to Richard for his generosity, much appreciated!
- Cushion Park on Old Steel Bridge Rd. By Bridge Mill private club, go and check it out.

## New Business:

- Clemmons: Is the club interested in sailing with kids in a summer recreational program at Acworth Beach?
- Discussion was made about a time frame, and liability weaver. Dession was made that this is worth pursuing

Joe Carter      There are 5 slots open for raft ups, so sign up please  
Keep Bill Murry in your thoughts and prayers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted by  
Nancy Johns Yoeperson

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## Pennies- No Dollars..if we don't respond !

Please, if you have forgotten to take care of your annual dues please do so. Unfortunately, our caliber of SWSC effort does require some minimal funding with our \$ 45.00 Annual Dues.

Please remember this week ( if you haven't already done so) to pay our annual dues...as the mid year 50% discount may have to be eliminated.

**South Winds Sailing Club  
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